

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

Supertrapp Industries, Inc.

Ohio Manufacturing Extension Partnership

Supertrapp Industries Saves Money Using Lean Techniques

Client Profile:

SuperTrapp/Kerker is a leading manufacturer of comprehensive performance exhaust systems for a variety of motor vehicle applications, including automotive, motorcycles, and all-terrain vehicles. Founded in 1988 and owned by Dreison International, the company is located in Cleveland, Ohio and employs less than 250 people.

Situation:

SuperTrapp found that plant inefficiencies were creating increasing levels of raw material inventory, work-in-process (WIP), finished goods, and delays in customer shipments. The company was concerned that existing capacity constraints would inhibit future growth. SuperTrapp needed help addressing these issues, and asked CAMP, a NIST MEP network affiliate, to assist.

Solution:

CAMP and SuperTrapp launched an ambitious project to improve manufacturing throughput, reduce inventories, and meet customer shipment dates. SuperTrapp secured a management-level commitment to implementing the principles of lean manufacturing throughout the organization, including education for SuperTrapp's executive team and training for managers and workers.

CAMP provided education and training to SuperTrapp's employees, and began implementing the basics of 5S, a workplace organization methodology. Next, CAMP introduced value stream mapping, another lean technique, on one of the company's five product lines. After forming a cross-functional team comprised of management, marketing, quality, and production workers, CAMP experts helped the team develop a current state value stream map to identify inefficiencies and bottlenecks in the line's processes. The exercise helped SuperTrapp target key areas for improvement, document improvement goals, and develop a future state map. Using this map, CAMP and SuperTrapp made changes to production processes and developed manufacturing cells.

Results:

Saved approximately \$3 million per year in costs.

Saved \$50,000 in annual labor costs.

Testimonial:

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"CAMP takes the time to understand our needs and reacts quickly. I've been impressed. The staff is very personable and easy to work with."

John Hedges, General Manager